



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/659,261	09/11/2000	Nimrod Megiddo	ARC9-2000-0081-US1	5596

7590

01/23/2003

Marc McSwain Esq
Counsel IP Law Dept IBM Corporation
Almaden Research Center
Mail Drop C4TA J2B
San Jose, CA 95120-6099

EXAMINER

PARDO, THUY N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2175

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/659,261

Applicant(s)

MEGIDDO ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Pardo

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2000 and 11 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed on December 11, 2000 (Paper No.2) complies with the provisions of M.E.P. § 609. It has been placed of record in the application file. The information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Object to claims

3. Claim 9 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim, or amend the claim to place the claim in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim in independent form. This claim can not be examined, because the parent of this claim is unknown. However, in the interests of compact prosecution, assume that claim 9 is further limiting to the subject matter of claim 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In regard to claims 1-26, the feature of "shorthand link" is not defined in the disclosure. The meaning of "shorthand link" is unclear in this context. Correction is required. However, in the interests of compact prosecution, please note the examiner's interpretation of claims for analysis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

6. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by **Stern et al.** (Hereinafter "Stern") U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0052928.

As to claim 1, Stern teaches a method of providing links to remotely located information in a network of remotely connected computers [see the abstract and fig. 1], said method comprising the steps of

- a) associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs) [internal link as function of keywords and an unique identifier for the Web site, 0055, 0057-0067 on page 3];
- b) logging associated shorthand links in a registry database [a links-to-visit table, see the abstract; a list of internal links and selecting from remaining internal links as function of keywords, 0055 of page 3];
- c) searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link [internal links of a web site, see the abstract]; and
- d) for each found said shorthand link, fetching said associated URL [the target URL associated with a link, 0029 of page 2].

As to claim 2, Stern teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches

- I) requesting registration of a URL [table "links to visit", 16 of fig. 3]:
- ii) selecting an unused key [inherent in the system]: and
- iii) pairing said selected key with said URL as a shorthand link [the target URL associated with a link, 0029 of page 2]..

As to claim 3, Stern teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that each key-URL, pair is entered in the registry database [16 of fig. 3].

As to claim 4, Stern teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having selected said shorthand link [0029 of pages 1 and 2].

As to claim 5, Stern teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having provided the paired key of the key URL pair [0029 of pages 1, 2; 16 of fig. 3].

As to claim 6, Stern teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that an error message is returned whenever a requestor provides a key not paired with a URL [inherent in the system].

As to claim 7, Stern teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that when a provided key not associated with a URL is identified as corresponding to a key in a key-URL pair, presenting the identified URL to said requester [inherent in the system].

As to claims 8-13, all limitations of these claims have been rejected in the analysis of claims 1-7 above, and these claims have been rejected on that basis.

As to claims 14-26, Stern teaches the invention substantially as claimed as specified in claims 1-13 above, with the exception of computer readable program code means. However, since the method is processed in the computer system, the feature of having a computer readable program code means is inherently in the system in order to perform such functions and convert information from one form to another.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1091. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 746-7238	(After Final Communication)
(703) 746-7239	(Official Communication)
(703) 746-7240	(For Status inquiries, draft communication)

and/or:

(703) 746-5616 (*Use this Fax#, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "Draft" communication. Examiner may request that a formal/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions*).

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

8. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

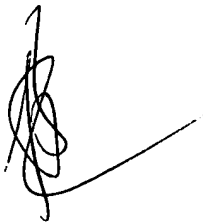
Or:

(703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington.

VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Thuy Pardo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thuy Pardo
January 15, 2003